

# A NINETEENTH CENTURY REDWARE PIPE POSSIBLY MANUFACTURED AT LANCASTER, OHIO

by

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A recent Phase I archaeological survey (Murphy 1999) southwest of Lancaster, in Hocking Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, revealed a small, multi-component scatter of historic artifacts and flint flakes (33-FA-1411). The Cupp Site lies on the top and side slope of an irregular, eroded Wisconsin end moraine remnant just east of a second-order tributary of the Hocking River, here a ditched stream that transects a large cultivated field. The prehistoric material recovered is limited to a fragmentary triangular point of Upper Mercer flint, a small ovate biface of unidentified flint, and a prismatic blade fragment doubtfully representing an Historic gunflint.

Although no references to a farmstead at this location have been found in the literature, the artifacts recovered suggest an ante-bellum occupation. Although badly disturbed by cultivation and erosion and lacking any discrete feature remnants or concentrations of artifact material, the site has not been impacted by later occupation. Considered particularly significant temporally is the complete absence of ironstone or other "white" tableware, a corresponding dominance of pearlware and true porcelain, and the common occurrence of early transfer and sponged sherds. Redware crock sherds outnumbered stoneware crock and jug sherds 20 to 6, also suggesting an early 19<sup>th</sup> C. date for the historic component. A sample of 20 small fragments of blue-green flat glass were obtained, yielding a mean thickness of 1.46 mm. Using Ball's (1983) formula, these yield a date of 1816.1, whereas Moir's (1987) formula yields a date of 1835.6.

By far the most intriguing artifact recovered is the base of a reed- or stub-stemmed redware tobacco pipe covered with a dark, greenish-brown glaze (Fig. 1). The pipe stem is decorated with a series of diagonal raised ribs which undoubtedly continued onto the bowl. This is a common motif in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> C. reed-stemmed tobacco pipes manufactured in the United States and is known from the Kirkpatrick-Peterson pipe factory at Point Pleasant, Clermont Co., Ohio, as well as the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. site at Mogadore, Summit Co., Ohio, and the Kirkpatrick pottery at Anna, Illinois. None of these are manufactured of redware, however, and no examples are known with such a thick, dark glaze. Pamplin, Virginia, pipes are mostly redware and include a few forms with diagonally

ribbed stems, but the designs are quite different and none include ribbing on the bowl (Hamilton and Hamilton 1972).

The overall affinities of this pipe would suggest a Pennsylvania or North Carolina origin. Walker (1975: 106) indicate that about a quarter of the Moravian clay pipes produced at Bethabara, North Carolina, were black-, brown-, green-, mottle-, or clear-glazed. Most of the Bethabara pipe forms were anthropomorphic, however; nor do the forms later produced at nearby Salem, North Carolina, appear to include diagonally ribbed forms (Albright 1958). Unfortunately, early Pennsylvania reed-stem pipes are less well documented, but it is a likely source, since the pipe molds used by the North Carolina potters were actually produced in eastern Pennsylvania.

A third, very intriguing possibility is that the pipe was made locally and represents the product of pioneer Lancaster potter, Edward Thomas or his successor, Jacob Kridelbaugh. Very little is known about either Thomas or Kridelbaugh, however, beyond the following advertisement placed in the Lancaster, Ohio, *Eagle*, March 17, 1817:

*"Two Dollars Reward STOLEN, from the Pottery of the subscriber, formerly occupied by Edward Thomas, in Lancaster, on the night of the first inst., A Pipe-Mould, Made of lead and plated with copper. Whoever brings back said mould, and informs the subscriber who the person was that stole it, shall have the above reward, or one Dollar for the mould only. Jacob Kridelbaugh."*

It is not clear even that Thomas was a potter. Neither he nor Kridelbaugh is listed in the 1820 census for Fairfield Co. and in fact no other reference to either of them has been found. It is significant, however, that clay pipes were being manufactured in Lancaster as early as March, 1817, and it is suggested that the redware pipe found at the Cupp Site may be a product of this pottery. The prospects of ever proving or disproving this thesis are remote, since the precise location of the Lancaster pottery has not been determined, and, since it was probably in downtown Lancaster, little or nothing is likely to remain of the site. The discovery of additional such pipes in the Lancaster area might strengthen the case, while their documented occurrence elsewhere might weaken it. And it is always possible that a pipe manufactory in Penn-

sylvania or elsewhere may be discovered where these distinctive tobacco pipe forms were actually made.

## References

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Figure 1 (Murphy) Redware Tobacco Pipe Fragment from the Cupp site (33-FA-1411), Fairfield Co., Ohio.